

January 9  
1930

CENTENNIAL YEAR

1930

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

# MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

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*"We do not ask any people to throw away any good they have got; we only ask them to come and get more. What if all the world should embrace this Gospel? They would then see eye to eye, and the blessings of God would be poured out upon the people, which is the desire of my whole heart."*—JOSEPH SMITH.

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## GREETINGS

FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

TO OUR BRETHREN AND SISTERS AND FRIENDS THROUGHOUT  
THE WORLD:

More than one hundred years ago—before the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized—the following message was addressed to the world:

A great and marvelous work is about to come forth unto the children of men.

Behold, I am God; give heed unto my word, which is quick and powerful.

Shortly after this, the Lord again said:

Hearken ye people from afar; and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.

For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated. . . .

And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days.

And they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them.

One thousand eight hundred twenty-nine years before that time the greatest epochal event in the history of the world had occurred. Christ our Lord, the Son of God, had been born at Bethlehem of Judea, His birth heralded by the angel of the Lord, and heavenly hosts, who declared the new-born Babe to be Christ the Lord, the Redeemer of the world.

Of the infancy, the sojourn in Egypt and ministry of Jesus we have but brief account. The message of peace and good will which He brought to the House of Israel was rejected by His own people. He suffered persecution, and was finally crucified because the new truths which He revealed were in conflict with the old law by which Israel, from the time of their deliverance from the Egyptian captivity, under the leadership of the prophet Moses, had been governed.

He arose from the tomb, the First-fruits of the resurrection, thus making possible the redemption of the human family from the penalty of death which had been pronounced upon them.

During His ministry He plainly indicated to His disciples that His mortal mission was to be of short duration, but He promised that at a later date He would come again in His glory, accompanied by holy angels, to sit upon the throne of His power and to judge the world.

Asked by His disciples when the time of His glorious appearance would be, and for a sign by which they might identify it, He said :

Take heed that no man deceive you.

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ ; and shall deceive many.

And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. . . .

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom : and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. . . . and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. . . .

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. . . .

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations ; and then shall the end come. . . .

Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. . . .

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

With the passing of the present Christmas-tide a century will have elapsed since the opening of the present Gospel dispensation, and the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We are an hundred years nearer the time of the advent of the Redeemer of the world.

In humility His disciples have carried the message of the restored Gospel to the people of the world. It has been preached in every civilized nation, and testimony borne that the Lord has again manifested Himself to His children who are here upon earth, has restored the everlasting Priesthood, and caused the Church of Christ to be re-established.

Thousands of honest-hearted people have accepted the testimony of these humble messengers and been made partakers of

the blessings and joy which the Gospel brings. Truly, from an obscure and modest beginning, a marvelous work and wonder has been accomplished.

During this period the voice of the Lord, by His Spirit, has been constantly speaking to the pure-in-heart; while the voice of thunders and lightnings, of earthquakes, tempests, the sea heaving beyond its bounds, and the constant recurrence of war, warn the people of the world that the day of the coming of the Lord is nigh.

By the voice of the Lord, spoken through His servants, and by signs and wonders which are constantly manifested, He is calling His children to repentance. He pleads with them to forsake sin and return to His service, that they may be delivered from the tragic judgment which their own wicked acts will bring upon them.

To the Latter-day Saints everywhere we send our greeting, and blessing, and our humble prayer that the Spirit of the Lord may be increased upon you, that you may have strength to resist the temptations of the world. Put your houses in order, honour the laws of God and obey and uphold the civil laws of the country in which you reside. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, that when the cry shall go forth: "Behold, the bridegroom cometh," as He will come, we may all be prepared to meet Him.

To the people of the world we say: All hail! We greet you as brothers. We exhort you to come unto Christ and be made perfect through Him. Let us unite in a universal determination to establish peace on earth, and good will and brotherhood among men; that the words of the angel who declared the birth of the Lord upon the hills of Judea one thousand nine hundred thirty years ago may become an accomplished fact, and peace on earth and good will to men be firmly established. God speed the day when the nations of the world shall "beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;" when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Even so come quickly Lord Jesus.

HEBER J. GRANT  
ANTHONY W. IVINS  
CHARLES W. NIBLEY

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**BAPTISM.** "My beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son, with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism—yea, by following your Lord and your Saviour down into the water, according to his word, behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost."—BOOK OF MORMON, 2 NEPHI 31 : 13.

## THE ANCESTRY OF JOSEPH SMITH

(JOSEPH SMITH SKETCHES, No. 1)

EIGHT YEARS after the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized, in 1838, Joseph Smith set about to write or compile his history, and he continued the labour almost to the day of his death. It is the most complete and remarkable self-revelation recorded of any religious leader.

Joseph Smith understood that a prophet is but a man; and that the divine message which he voices is coloured by his personality and environment. This explains the multitude of minor, personal entries in his history, the very items that enable us now to reconstruct his living, breathing personality, which was a life-long, joyous memory to those who knew him in life, and to understand the motives and sequence of the acts of his life. He made no attempt to create a mystical atmosphere, through which his contemporaries or the future should view him. Instead, he cleared away, as far as he could, whatever might hide or obscure his life or personality. He laboured and played, he arose refreshed and retired weary, he philosophized with the learned and wrestled for exercise on the open common, he communed with divinity and brought the message in simple language to the people of his day. He was easily understood, for he was a natural, normal man, striving ever for high and good realities. The subtlety of evil was never about him.

The inheritance by man of ancestral traits was recognized by the Prophet. Physically and mentally, a person is often a product of his ancestors. Therefore, in the opening statement of his history, he traces his direct paternal and maternal lines as far back as he was able, six and three generations, respectively. This statement of origins is almost a challenge to the world to examine his family antecedents. He had nothing to hide. Indeed, he had cause to be proud of the ancestors known to him, for they were clean, honourable people, most of them prominent in their communities.

The name of Joseph Smith has been known the world over, during a century, "for good and evil," and his life and pedigree have been subjected to careful examination by friends and foes. More than one hundred and twenty of his direct ancestors, going back seven generations, are known, and in addition, several hundred other blood relatives.\* The quality of the blood that ran in the veins of the Prophet can be safely estimated.

The family of Joseph Smith, on his father's and mother's side, came from British settlers in New England. Thirty of his ancestral fathers left British shores in search of religious

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\*Archibald F. Bennett, "The Ancestry of Joseph Smith the Prophet," *The Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine*, Vol. 20, pages 1 and 49.

liberty on the new-found American continent. Seven of his progenitors crossed the Atlantic in the famous ship *The Mayflower*, and three signed the Mayflower Compact. If America has any aristocracy, it is made up of those who have descended from these puritan pilgrims, in search of religious liberty. Among the known ancestors of Joseph Smith are found neither criminals nor feeble-minded. No wonder the Prophet made no attempt to hide his descent.

The American ancestors of the Smith family were among the pioneers in the winning of the Western continent for human use. New England climate is rigorous, quite as much so as the British climate, and New England soils yield crops with reluctance. The pioneers became hardy in body as in spirit. Many of the Prophet's ancestors acquired prominence in community or colony affairs; others acquired modest wealth; some held important civil positions; there were many ministers and preachers among them; and representatives of the family fought in every war for freedom, against the Indians or in the several wars for independence. The genealogical record of the Prophet Joseph Smith, shows an unusual degree of health, vitality and intelligence, coupled with honesty, independence and devotion to God. The fearless presentation of his ancestors in the opening paragraphs of his history, is fully justified by later findings.

Some examination has been made also of the British ancestors of the Prophet Joseph Smith. As far as they have been traced, to use the words of Bennett,\* "His (Joseph Smith's) ancestors take their place among the worthy families there, mostly belonging to the land-owning and lesser gentry class, with several families being entitled to coats-of-arms."

Such was the pedigree of the Prophet of the nineteenth century.—W.

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## "MORMONISM" THE "MASTER KEY"

ELDER AUBREY J. PARKER

THE Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints promulgates no half-truths. There is in the Gospel plan of the ages, an answer to every query, a key to every riddle in the universe. "Mormonism"—or as it should be called, the true Gospel of Jesus Christ—is the "master key," because it unlocks the answers to all the vexing questions and trying problems known to man.

It has been said that Jesus Christ turned the water into wine at the marriage feast at Cana, because He had the "key" to the spiritual truth which underlies this action. Jesus Christ said

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\*Bennett, *Loc. cit.*

unto His disciples: "Greater things than these shall ye do"—and in order that they might fulfil His word, He bestowed upon Peter the "key," and said to him: "Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." In this way, the counterpart of Peter's acts existed in the heavens, making the whole valid—as of the departed Saints we sing to-day: "Angels above us are silent notes taking of every action." We believe in the "recording angel" as an essential part of the heavenly hosts, linking mankind with the spiritual or heavenly home.

Man, in his present state, is a finite creature. He is only a prophet of God when He possesses the "keys of heaven," and is endowed with power from on high, to act for the Lord. The fact that modern theologians do not accept new revelation from God, implies that they must of necessity live with ancient formulas and rituals, which in some modern churches seem flavoured with something far different from the doctrines inaugurated by Jesus Christ in His primitive Church.

The God of the Bible is to the Latter-day Saints a progressive God; hence the Church must fit every age in which it finds itself operating; and thus there is a need of continuous revelation and of a prophet-leader who holds the "keys of the kingdom of heaven," in each dispensation.

It is written: "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." The claim of "Mormonism" is that the Lord does direct His prophets to do His works upon earth in these modern times, as well as in ages past. In former times Jesus told His disciples: "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

To-day, a true minister of the Most High God, bearing the authority to act in His name—the holy Priesthood—does not "call" himself. "No man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." Aaron was called by direct communication between God and His designated prophet, Moses. So are all of the Lord's servants divinely appointed in these days, who are to do His work. They receive their "call" and "ordination" in direct lineage from those who before held or hold that Priesthood power, that divine right to act authoritatively for a Higher Power, that recognized relationship which alone holds the "keys" of the "ministering of angels" through time and eternity.

Whether or not man believes the truth does not affect the nature of truth. Jesus was scoffed at because of the truths which He enunciated; and He said that His Apostles would be scoffed at also, and evilly spoken against, "for the servant is not greater

than his lord," and thus it was. Yet Jesus and His Apostles did teach truth, and their teachings are remembered, while the names and utterances of those who scoffed have been lost from the memory of time.

Speculation concerning the things of God is the cause of much sectarian controversy. The word of God has ceased to be regarded by modern, so-called "Christian creeds," as the "sure and certain rule of faith and practice." There seems to be only one doctrine upon which the majority of sects are united, and that is that Jesus Christ actually died for the sins of the world—and many are beginning to doubt even that. Others are divided, declaring that He was only a prophet, or that He was sent of God to be unto us only a pattern of good. But even those who declare their belief that the Son of God died to atone for the sins of the world, are in some degree uncertain as to just what was accomplished by His death and resurrection. Herein creeps human speculation, and it shows the need for a "key of knowledge" which will make clear the word of God and open the heavens to the understanding of man. The Divine purpose in the plan of life seems lost to modern humanity. They lack wisdom and understanding concerning the things of God; they idealize the foundation of the plan, but they do not build, for they have no materials for that purpose—nor do they have any idea that a building is necessary; they dimly comprehend that there is a plan, and that is sufficient for them—they seek no further.

The reason for this apathy is that to them the "key" is lost—their religious organizations are merely of human origin. They have a "form of Godliness, but they deny the power thereof." They possess the letter, but the letter without the spirit is dead. They are wandering in false spiritual paths, lost in the maze of unbelief and error—yet they say they have no need of further revelation from God, no need for the light of truth to lead them to eternal life and happiness! They seal up the fountain of revelation and the canon of scripture and shut the mouth of God and His holy prophets, but still they claim to be religions, and to have a religion built upon true principles, accepted of the Lord!

Truly, the world needs the key of "Mormonism" to unlock the mysteries of life and eternal salvation. Salvation—not speculation—is what the world needs and is seeking for. The key of knowledge has been given in this dispensation to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, that man may again commune with his Maker and walk in at the open door of wisdom, light and understanding. "Mormonism," having the necessary keys and being directed by the Lord through revelation, having all the gifts required and being established in the dispensation of the fulness of times, has become the "master key," or the "keystone" in the arch of truth.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1930

### EDITORIAL

## THE SAGE AND THE PROPHET

“PHANTOM WALLS” is the name of Sir Oliver Lodge’s latest book. Sir Oliver says in the preface, that “It is because a beneficent spiritual world has to me become the ultimate reality that I have composed this book.” Such words are doubly strong in the mouth of an eminent scientist and profound student, a broad humanitarian and fearless champion of truth, and a man beloved as few in his generation.

The book is wholesome reading. To a Latter-day Saint it suggests again and again how eternally sound are the principles of truth enunciated by the Prophet Joseph Smith, one hundred years ago. Every avenue of approach leads to confirmations of the Prophet’s claims. One illustration from *Phantom Walls* must suffice:

It appears to be an undoubted fact that the Higher Power only acts through agents, and does not exercise coercion. If it did, the world could be more perfect in appearance, as the inorganic or mechanical world is already perfect, but it would be a machine, not a spiritual entity at all. We are evidently not machines: We have free will and the power of choice. To this great possession our difficulties and failures are attributable. The aim is higher than we can readily imagine. The divine effort is not to make things perfect by compulsion, but to secure willing cooperation, to create a race of intelligent beings who shall realize something of their possible destiny, and shall do what little each of them can towards the furtherance and fulfilment of the scheme.

These words, eloquent of common sense, present doctrines that the Latter-day Saints have been teaching to the world during the last century. Compare the above statement of the world-famous scientist, written in 1929, with that of Joseph Smith, received in 1830, as follows:

Satan . . . came before me, saying—Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; . . . But, behold, my Beloved Son . . . said unto me—Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever. Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him . . . I caused that he should be cast down. . . .

The Lord said . . . gave I unto man his agency. . . .

For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.



He who runs may read the parallelism in these two quotations. Those who understand man's preexistence as well as his continued life after death, and the purpose of the Great Council will also comprehend the Eternal meaning of human existence.

Joseph Smith's message was one of truth; therefore, of necessity, the honest conclusions of sane thinkers must harmonize with it. A century's sowing continues to yield a harvest.—W.

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## WORM HOLES

FROM THE OUTSIDE, the apple looked perfect. No rough spots or worm holes marred its visible outward texture. Yet I did not bite into it; but, perhaps from habit, or from a desire to "core" the apple, I cut it into quarters. Then for the first time, its rottenness was revealed. Layer after layer, inside of the apple, was decayed; even the core, the heart of the apple, had become soft, brown, mushy pulp. Only a thin covering of apparently normal pulp stood between the rosy skin and the dead tissue.

Upon examining it, I found a tiny worm hole at the apex, leading right into the seed bed of the apple; a trail of decay and death. It may have been bored through the ripened skin, but more likely it was dug through the young, unripened fruit, for it had reached the vital centre of the apple and had spread its deathly contagion over the whole of the inside.

Then I pondered. Is there not a similitude between deceiving apples and human beings? Many men and women may seem perfectly normal and attractive to the casual looker-on. Sometimes we may know them a long time before we suspect that all is not right; that somewhere, hidden within, is a wormy centre. Then we discover tiny holes of decay, and upon fuller acquaintance, if they do not check the process, we may find their every thought, their every act, coloured with inward decay.

How may we tell? The apple seemed perfect on the outside. We need, for example, but watch those who use tobacco, or who drink spirituous and stimulating liquors and beverages. They who thus break down their health become prey to other small indiscretions which have a cumulative effect on character, until they become as open books to one who understands how to read. The man who neglects his tithing tends to shrivel up, in time, from spiritual decay. All who refuse to live righteously have a guilty look about them that cannot be mistaken. Weak eyes, dulled intellects, hearts tainted with the poison they secretly imbibe, give positive evidence of their disregard for the laws of God. In time, too, they come to love the effect of breaking the law more than health or freedom or truth. Their very souls are tinctured with a feeling of protection for that which gratifies their perverted appetites.

Do they get that way in a day? No. Such things come slowly, by degrees. Oftentimes they start in youth, when somehow these habit-forming drugs, or vicious habits, or disregard for law, are introduced to children; more rarely the channel is dug in later life, when through ignorance or wilful disobedience to the laws of life, people partake gently at first of these soul-poisoning substances which weaken the human will and implant in character, wrong ideals. If ever we neglect our prayers to the Lord, if ever we neglect paying tithing, if ever we partake of injurious substances, or if we even entertain thoughts of so doing, the first insidious worms of evil begin their task of undermining our character—they begin to tunnel worm holes through our souls.

To the Latter-day Saints have been given codes of law that are in keeping with the words of Solomon: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." If we never develop a taste for forbidden things, we will never want them.

One of these codes of law, given for our health, strength, vigour and vitality of mind and body, is the daily prayer for our guidance; another is keeping the Sabbath day in spirit as in truth; another is the Word of Wisdom; another is the law of tithing. There are many other safe guide-posts along the way with which we come in daily contact. "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." The Lord, seeing our frailties, and knowing of the things which would be extant in our day to destroy our God-given bodies and our inherited free agency, revealed these life-giving laws to Joseph Smith and to his successors, for our benefit. If we will listen to wisdom, ancient and modern, we shall "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." "Forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments."

The decayed apple could not be rebuilt; but God's children may always repent. If we obey the laws of God, health, strength, wisdom and knowledge—eternal life—will come to us. Thus we in every respect, become clean and pure, obedient to the will and word of the Lord. Beware of worm holes! Keep the worm holes out!

WESTON N. NORDGREN

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### "SERVE THE LORD"

ELDER ERNEST GLENN TAYLOR

"CHOOSE you this day whom ye will serve; . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." These are the words of Joshua, who was Moses' successor, to the children of Israel assembled together in Mount Ephraim. Having received much to be thankful for in their nomadic life, since being freed from

bondage, these chosen few were no doubt brought closer together by the exhortations from their leader, and the effect was made manifest when Israel put away all evil and served the Lord.

And so it is that God's children are reminded in every dispensation through chosen servants: "For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." The first, and one of the most essential steps that will lead anyone who is seeking a stimulus for serving the Lord to righteousness, comes from honouring thy father and thy mother.

In these days of speculative nations, bringing about so much unsteadiness, and arousing not a little curiosity concerning the fate of humanity, is it not right that our dependence for protection should be placed in Him who knows the course of this world and its inhabitants from the very beginning? Let us consider the words of the Apostle Paul: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;" then does it not seem that we were all meant to profit by those words? No person believing in the scriptures and possessing the true spirit can say that because of Christ's mission here upon the earth, man need do nothing but confess Him, and his salvation is secure. In the twentieth chapter of Revelation we read that we are going to be judged out of those things which were written in the books according to our works. This shows us that works are required of us here in our second estate. And furthermore, I believe they must be designed to do good, for even from the beginning, God has said: "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." We can trust God to reward us for all good works. Just as a labourer will receive his earnings from his employer at an appointed time, so also will mankind receive their just dues from that great Paymaster, Christ, on the judgment day.

In these last days, since the final establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ, which has now been in force almost a full century, there is evidence of such trust having been and now being put in the Lord by many in the world. For when I now reflect to the time when I was to leave for the mission field, I realize how my parents exercised trust in the Lord. Some years ago my father fulfilled a mission over here in England for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Later, after having returned to the valleys of the Rocky Mountains, which to me seem so near and yet so far away, he succeeded in building up a home and family of his own. Since then two sons have been privileged to journey to Great Britain, bearing a message of truth for all. This desire comes down through the blood of Israel of old.

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve;" I now recall the words of my Father when I approached him with my call to go upon a mission: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

## OBEDIENCE TO LAW

ELDER CHARLES LEWIS KINSEY

THERE is a story in the Book of Mormon of a Nephite named Zeniff. He had a very strong desire to recover the land of Lehi-Nephi from the Lamanites. The Lamanite king consented to give him this land peaceably, as a trap, thinking to overcome him later, and make slaves of his people.

Zeniff led his followers into the land and began to build up the walls of the city and to plant crops. For twelve years they laboured, and through their diligence and obedience to the laws of God, they became more and more powerful and prosperous.

The Lamanites, who were lazy, and wished to get their living at the expense of the Nephites, saw their increasing power, thought the time was ripe in which to take them into bondage, and attacked them.

When Zeniff saw the enemy approaching, he armed his people and went against them "in the strength of the Lord." The Lamanites, who knew nothing of God, were surprised at the great power of the Nephites, and were defeated.

Zeniff ruled over his people in a righteous manner for many years. They were quick to remember God and enjoyed His greatest blessings.

At Zeniff's death, the right to rule fell to his son, Noah. As a king, Noah was a failure. He installed a poor government in which a number of false priests were included. These taught the doctrines of men, and did not obey the commandments of God. There was much dissension among the people. Consequently, when the Lamanites attacked again, they found the once powerful people very much weakened, and easily conquered them. King Noah finally suffered death by fire.

This story of two men illustrates the benefits which may be derived through obedience to the laws of God. In all Biblical or Book of Mormon history, one finds that those people who were obedient, were blessed. Those who lived sinfully, according to their own precepts, were usually overcome by their enemies, or stricken with famine and plagues.

This year we are celebrating the centennial anniversary of the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a people and as a Church, we have enjoyed great prosperity through obeying God's commands. However, as in all instances where the true word of God is established, Satan is trying to cause confusion. We are tempted to break the laws of God. Satan assures us that by breaking a small, apparently unimportant law, we are doing no harm. But by breaking such laws, we lose the greatest thing in our lives—the testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel.

Breaking small laws leads to breaking larger ones—even to breaking the Ten Commandments.

We can only get the good and the benefits of the Gospel by living it. God has promised His guidance and protection only on the condition that we obey His commandments and follow the example He has set.

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## THE STARLIGHT OF CHRISTMAS EVE

AGNES BOURNE

Liverpool Branch, Liverpool District

THE courtyard of the little inn at Bethlehem was crowded to overflowing with an excited mass of people. The innkeeper, hot and weary with his long day's duties, spoke roughly to the tall, grave-eyed man who begged so earnestly for admittance, and for food and shelter for the young girl at his side.

"There is no room, I tell you," the innkeeper cried again; "no room in the inn!"

"But the girl is weary; we have come far; she is ill; we *must* have shelter," pleaded the tall stranger.

The innkeeper was not hard-hearted. He was, indeed, a married man himself. The girl did look pale, and, after all, they did not push and swear in their disappointment, as some would have done.

"There is a stable over yonder," said the innkeeper, indicating a little rocky cave; "not luxurious fare, but it would be shelter, and the straw is clean."

The dark-eyed man thanked him gravely, and led the half-fainting girl tenderly away.

It was warm in the stable; warm with the breath of meek-eyed cattle; and the floor was strewn with fresh straw. There was a sense of hush, of tenderness, such as the world has never known before or since; and upon the quietness of it all, just as the night waned, there came the first cry of a little Child, upon the sighing of the night wind.

Then lo! A star, more glorious than any in the heavens, rose to its zenith, above the roof of that humble shelter, and made a pathway of streaming light, that angel feet might find their way. And there later, in the quiet beauty of the Eastern dawn, came the shepherds, worshipping, awestruck, and laid their lips upon the Baby's feet in praise. There came also to that stable, three kings, to worship; and in the glory of their finding, they never even saw the poverty around.

To all men did the Baby King send out His appeal that night. To the poor, to the rich, to the humble and the mighty. His little hands were outstretched to receive them all.

He could so easily have chosen to come as a great King, in panoply and splendour. Instead, He came as a little Child,

as the Heart of Home. He came as Love, bringing Love to all peoples, nations and kindreds; and as He lay upon His mother's breast in that first dawning of the world's great birthday, for evermore He set the crown of purity and sacrifice upon the brow of motherhood; of love and understanding on the children of men.

O, His Divine humanity! What a priceless gift that wee Baby in the manger at Bethlehem brought to us all at Christmas time. And our gifts to Him—what are they?

We can still bring, if we will, the same presents that the adoring magi laid before His cradle those long years ago—the gold of thankfulness, the frankincense of praise and the myrrh of penitence. In gratitude and wonder, let us bring them, on our knees; so that, having made our reverence this Christmastide, in our hearts, in our prayers, and in our homes, we, as we pass away from the quiet little stable at Bethlehem, into the busy clatter of the world outside, may see again in the heavens the Starlight of Christmas Eve, and live, as He so wished us to live, those words of the angels' message:

“On earth peace, good will toward men.”

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### KIND WORDS FOR THE “STAR”

22 Melbourne Street, Exeter, Devon

December 22nd, 1929

DEAR PRESIDENT AND EDITOR:

As a member of the Church who lives nearly eighty miles from the nearest meeting place of the Saints, I would like to thank all who have contributed to the *Star* during this past year, making it so interesting and inspiring. I have lived in this world for well over fifty years and I can truly say that of all weekly publications I have known, the *Star* is the only one worth while.

No doubt there are others like the missionary, who, in a recent issue of the *Star*, told of standing alone, delivering his message in the market place of Loughborough; but I would at least like to shake his hand. Five years ago I received a testimony that the missionary calling is divine. Twelve months after my joining the Church, I was operated on for cancer. For quite a long time afterward, I deplored my condition and circumstances; but now, for some time past, due to “Mormonism,” I can thank my Heavenly Father for sparing me to live and see and know that my illness was a blessing in disguise. Truly God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. I have received a priceless blessing and testimony at His hands. I know that “Mormonism,” is the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that Joseph Smith was divinely sent to restore this Gospel to earth in our day and age of the world.

Sincerely your brother,

G. H. STRICKLAND

## THE MISSIONARY SPEAKS

**Concert Recitation.** We have found it very profitable over here in the Hull District to memorize the Sunday School Concert Recitation in our monthly missionary meetings. When it came to the second or third Sunday in the month sometimes the Elders and Saints could not repeat it in concert. In one branch the recitation was written on a blackboard that all might see and read it, and then repeat it aloud. It should be made a point of honour for everyone to learn each month's Concert Recitation, and be able to repeat it in concert or individually.

PAUL C. LAYTON, President Hull District

**Elders' Meetings.** Monthly missionary meetings provide inspiration for every missionary. One cannot attend such an assembly without feeling stronger spiritually. However, if the meeting is held in the afternoon, there is a tendency for those gathered, to see a picture show afterwards. While such shows may be good entertainment, it seems to me that one should go to the show first and afterwards to Elders' meeting, for it rather spoils the spirit of the meeting if a show is indulged in later. If missionary meetings were held in the evening, or with a District union meeting following, one would keep the spirit of the occasion and would feel really "pepped up" for the coming month.

WILLIAM D. CALLISTER, Sheffield District

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## FROM THE MISSION FIELD

**Scandinavian Mission Arrivals:** The following missionaries arrived at Stockholm, Sweden, on December 18th, aboard the *Gripsholm*; they have been thus assigned:

For the Danish Mission: Hyrum Dale Anderson, Lehi, Utah; Kenneth N. Nielson, Leamington, Utah; Don Walter Lund, Gunnison, Utah; Bernard O. Anderson, Vineyard, Utah.

For the Norwegian Mission: Leslie Alden Johnson, Santaquin, Utah.

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**Releases and Departures:** The following missionaries have been honourably released and have returned to their homes in America: William F. McKelvey—Sheffield and Scottish Districts—released on November 12th, sailed from Cherbourg aboard the *Berengaria* on December 24th; Cecil H. Toone—Birmingham, Manchester and Ulster Districts—released on December 15th, sailed from Southampton on December 28th, aboard the *George Washington*; Dean R. Merrill—Liverpool, Nottingham and Welsh Districts—released on December 15th, sailed from Cherbourg aboard the *Leviathan* on December 17th.

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**Doings in the Districts:** *Birmingham*—On Sunday, December 29th, at the King's Hall, Little London, Worcester, the Latter-day Saints held their opening Sunday School meeting. Elders Ivan E. Lauper and

Elwood A. Gee, with Brothers William L. Gittins and Lorenzo P. Dunn of the Kidderminster Branch, attended. In the evening the Sacramental meeting was well attended, with over three-fourths of those in attendance being investigators.

*Liverpool*—The Accrington Branch Sunday School gave a potatoe pie social on December 21st; and on Boxing Day, at a concert, prizes were distributed to Sunday School children.

On Christmas Eve, the Relief Society of the Liverpool Branch distributed gifts to those in need, and spread Christmas cheer throughout the Branch generally.

The Blackburn Branch Relief Society sponsored a potato pie social on Christmas Eve. The proceeds were distributed among the poor.

On Christmas Day the missionaries of the Liverpool District visited the homes of Church members, enjoying with them the Christmas season and greeting all with the warm hand of brotherly love and fellowship.

On Boxing Day, December 26th, the Liverpool Branch Sunday School gave a children's party. Refreshments were served and gifts were distributed.

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## HOW AND WHERE

(From the Dutch by P. A. DE GENESTET)

NOT in the schools, nay, have I found,  
Nor gained but little from the learned;  
That which the wise as truth expound,  
By wiser ones is overturned.

Life is its own and only school,  
Experience the sacred book;  
God's moving finger writes the scroll,  
Where not in vain for truth I look.

Each man must seek until he finds  
In his own heart, his own life's road,  
And in the Word, lest whirling winds  
Play with his heart, his faith, his God.

FRANK I. KOOYMAN

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BRITISH MISSION ADDRESS: A. WILLIAM LUND, PRESIDENT, 23 BOOTH  
STREET, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM

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